

Cath Petroskey

From: Fred Leuck <deleuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Subject: Blue Cross Bill
Attachments: memo comparing legacy & medadv.doc

Dear House Insurance Committee Chairperson Petros:

I represent a senior coalition in Lapeer County, Genesee County and Shiawassee County.

I also serve on the State Advisory Council of OSA.

It is clear to me, from all the chatter in Lansing that Blue Cross is trying desperately to opt out of its Legacy program. [See attached document for the bottom line reason!] They have been trying to do this for years and now it appears that they have the "ear" of the current legislature. I suspect this is the case, not because Lansing believes seniors would be better off in health coverage by switching to a Blue Cross Advantage program, but because it is wooed by the tax revenue Blue Cross will generate for the State if it becomes a "mutual fund" company.

There are some **additional bottom line considerations** your committee should consider:

1. The senior population is increasing as the "baby boomers" move toward retirement. This can be good for Michigan because boomer-seniors provide the knowledge and expertise to consider seriously alternatives to high-cost, government-funded long-term health care institutions. Their independent spirit makes them **prefer** staying in their homes, exercising more for good health, being open to assisted living if they must have outside help, and by and large, taking responsibility for their own well-being. Compare this with the hands-out-to-government-help which is so indicative of the younger generations.
2. The Affordable Health Care Act is a disaster for seniors. After all the deception, it has now come out that- **yes**, there will be a panel of about 15 people [business people, not medical professionals] who will have the final say as to whether or not a senior with say, a broken hip, or in need of a heart procedure, will be given a timely track to care or put on the "back burner" to simmer and wait and wait and possibly die for lack of care. Thus the United States [Michigan] will become like Canada in this regard. This is **your** mother and father I am talking about. This is **you and those you love**.
3. Those seniors who cannot afford a BC Advantage premium will be thrown 'under the bus' if Blue Cross is permitted to terminate its Legacy program. This will force seniors to double-down by enrolling in Medicaid, which will **add** tremendous burden to the State treasury. How will that equate against the assumed increased taxes the State hopes to glean from Blue Cross as a mutual company? The financial burden shifts from Blue Cross to the State to pay for senior care. Is that a win, win scenario?
4. Retiring boomer- **seniors vote!** There is such a thing as being "penny wise and pound foolish". Michigan needs to continue to stand up to Blue Cross pressure to eliminate their Legacy program. This has been and **is** serving seniors well. And **no**, Blue Cross of Michigan is not losing money. According to an article in Detroit Free Press, last year when BC tried this ploy to eliminate Legacy they made \$40 million on \$19.2 Billion [note the "B"] of investments, and retained \$2.78 **Billion** in reserves. As intelligent legislatures, you ought to be able to discern what BC is doing here and you ought to care to protect the seniors of Michigan from such avarice.

Sincerely,
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